

Message Text

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ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 AID-05 CEQ-01 CIAE-00 SOE-02
COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 EPA-04 INR-07 IO-14 L-03
NSF-02 NSC-05 NSAE-00 PM-05 USIA-15 SS-15 SP-02
DOE-11 INT-05 AGRE-00 /122 W
-----096519 310719Z /14

R 310323Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9083

UNCLAS NEW DELHI 1562

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SENV
SUBJECT: DATA FOR THE YEAR 2000 STUDY

REF: 1978 STATE 002024

1. REGRET DELAY IN RESPONDING REFTEL, BUT DATA HAVE BEEN DIFFICULT TO LOCATE AND COLLECT. EMBASSY HAS ATTEMPTED TO COLLECT INFORMATION REQUESTED IN REFERENCE. ONLY LIMITED DATA AVAILABLE ON INDIA-WIDE STATISTICS CONCERNING DEFORESTATION AND DEGRADATION OF AGRICULTURAL LAND. MOST INFORMATION HAS BEEN OBTAINED FROM THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE. TWO BOOKS WITH USEFUL DATA BEING POUCHED. SOURCES IN THE GOI PLANNING COMMISSION STILL BEING SOLICITED.

2. THE COMBINATION OF BOTH OVERGRAZING AND STRIPPING OF TREES FOR FUEL IS MAKING A SERIOUS IMPACT ON THE HIMALAYAN WATERSHED. EFFECTS ARE SEEN IN LAND SLIDES, FLOODING IN THE GANGETIC PLAIN, LOWERING OF THE GROUND WATER TABLE AND RESERVOIR SITUATION. NO STUDIES HAVE BEEN MADE TO ESTIMATE THE TOTAL ENVIRONMENTAL AND ECONOMIC COST OF DEFORESTATION. RESOLVING THE SOCIOLOGICAL PROBLEMS OF FORESTRY MANAGEMENT WOULD APPEAR EQUALLY PROBLEMATIC AS FINDING THE RESOURCES FOR REFORESTATION. SUPPLYING AN ALTERNATE MEANS FOR THE ECONOMIC SURVIVAL OF THE PEOPLE CURRENTLY USING THE FORESTS FOR THEIR LIVELIHOOD MUST PROCEED SIMULTANEOUSLY WITH GOOD FORESTRY PRACTICES.

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3. A SUMMARY OF SOME OF THE MORE IMPORTANT DATA POINTS
GIVEN BELOW:

A. FORESTRY: LAND USE CLASSIFICATION AS OF 1973 (MILLION HECTARE)

TOTAL GEOGRAPHICAL AREA: 328.05(100 PERCENT)

AGRICULTURE OR CULTIVATED LAND: 152.27(45.4)

FORESTS: 74.57(22.7)

OTHER UNCULTIVATED LAND: 42.18(13.0)

NON AGRICULTURAL USES: 16.25(5.0)

BARREN AND UNCULTIVATED LAND: 42.78(12.9)

MAN-MADE FORESTS IN INDIA CREATED UPTO 1969 1,546,400 HA.

FOREST AREAS (MILLION HA.)

1969-1973

YEAR	FORESTS	LOSS OF FORESTS (DEFORESTATION)
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1970	74.89	
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1971	74.83	0.06
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1972	74.60	0.23
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1973	74.57	0.03
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AVERAGE LOSS OF FORESTS/YEAR DURING 1970-73 106,700 HA./

/ACTUAL DEFORESTATION IS EXPECTED TO BE MORE BECAUSE OF SOME INCREASE BY REFORESTATION.

SEDIMENTATION DATA FOR 23 SELECTED RESERVOIRS HAVE BEEN COLLECTED. THE TREND OF THE SEDIMENTATION IN THE RESERVOIRS VARIES FROM 2.5 TO 18 HA.M/100 KM2 (54 TO 382 AC.FT./100 SQ. MILES) OF THE CATCHMENT PER YEAR. FOR EXAMPLE THE SEDIMENT RATE FOR THE PERIOD 1965-70 (5 YEARS) IS 7,358 AC.FT/YEAR FOR MAYURAKSHI RESERVOIR WHICH IS THREE TIMES THE EXPECTED RATE OF SILTATION.

B. SOIL: AGRICULTURAL LAND LOSS THRU:

GULLY EROSION (TOTAL) 2.3 MILLION HA.(1974)

RAVAGES OF WATER AND WIND EROSION 80,000 HA/YEAR(ESTIMATE)

SALINITY (TOTAL) 7 MILLION HA(ESTIMATE)

DESERTS NO DATA COLLECTED

LAND RECOVERED:

RAVINES 70,000 HA IN 15 YEARS

ALKALI SOIL 20,000 HA IN 3 YEARS

OVER A 25 YEAR PERIOD 22 MILLION HA. RECOVERED FOR AGRICULTURE USE
BY VARIOUS SOIL CONSERVATION PROGRAMS.

SEVERAL GOOD INSTITUTIONS ARE CONCERNED WITH SOIL CONSERVATION,
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CENTRAL SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION RESEARCH AND TRAINING
INSTITUTE (ICAR), DEHRA DUN.

CENTRAL ARID ZONE RESEARCH INSTITUTE, JODHPUR.
CENTRAL SOIL SALINITY RESEARCH INSTITUTE, KARNAL.
INDIAN GRASSLAND AND FODDER RESEARCH INSTITUTE, JHANSI.
SOIL CONSERVATION DIRECTORATE, FARIDABAD.
FOREST RESEARCH INSTITUTE AND COLLEGES, DEHRA DUN.

BUT THEIR BUDGET IS TOO SMALL TO MAKE A DRAMATIC IMPACT.

C. LAND DEVELOPMENT:

APPROXIMATE COST OF DEVELOPMENT OF LAND PER HA FOR
AGRICULTURE (1970)

RAVINES RS. 6,000 /

ALKALI SOIL RS. 5,000-6,000 /

TERRACING RS. 3,000-5,000

/ INCLUDES COST OF IRRIGATION.

ANTICIPATED CROP PRODUCTION FOR EACH ADDITIONAL HA OF LAND RECOVERED
IS 2-3 TONS FOOD GRAINS.
GOHEEN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DATA, ENVIRONMENT, STUDIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 31 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978NEWDE01562
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780045-0744
Format: TEL
From: NEW DELHI
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t1978014/aaaaacon.tel
Line Count: 164
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: ea16c7e1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION OES
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18 feb 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3739000
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DATA FOR THE YEAR 2000 STUDY
TAGS: SENV, XX
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/ea16c7e1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014